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Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

BY-LAWS,

ADOPTED, FEBRUARY 1, 1888,

For the Government of the Commandery of the State of
New York.

(I.) MEETINGS.

I.—The stated meetings of the Commandery shall be held on the first Wednesday of the months of May, October, December, February, and April, at the hour of 6:30 o'clock P. M., at Delmonico's, corner of Fifth Avenue and Twenty-sixth Street, until otherwise ordered.

The stated meetings shall close promptly at 8:30 o'clock P. M., except that for the election of officers, which shall close at 9 P. M., unless prolonged to a later designated hour by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

BANQUET.

II.—The customary refection shall be served upon the adjournment of the stated meetings of the Commandery. The Commander shall preside at the same, or in his absence either of the Vice-Commanders in the order of his seniority, or in their absence a temporary chairman. The preparation and conduct thereof shall be com-

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mitted to the Recorder and Treasurer, subject to such rules or regulations as may from time to time be made by the Board of Officers. Guests may be admitted thereto under regulations of the Board of Officers, which shall be published successively in the circular orders.

(2.) COMMITTEES.

"All committees and officers not otherwise provided for shall be appointed by the Commander." The first-named member of a committee shall act as the chairman thereof.

(3.) APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Applications for membership shall be presented to the Commandery at a stated meeting by announcement of the Recorder, and not otherwise, and none shall be received unless accompanied with the admission fee and the dues of the current year, and assurance that the prerequisites of the Constitution have been complied with.

The names of the applicants for membership, a brief detail of their military history, a statement of their present occupation and address, the names of their recommenders and of the Committee of Investigation, shall be contained in the circular order published by the Recorder for the stated meeting at which such applications are to be reported by the Committee of Investigation for the action of the Commandery.

(4.) COMMITTEES OF INVESTIGATION.

The Commander, at his discretion, may appoint more than one Committee of Investigation, apportioning to each committee, as near as may be, an aliquot part of the whole number of applications, and of such number, respectively, as in his judgment will secure a strict investigation.

Private communications by any companion to any member of a Committee of Investigation touching the worthiness or eligibility of any applicant whose application for membership is referred to such committee, or any private or personal knowledge thereof communicated by any member of the committee, shall in all instances be observed by them as strictly confidential as to the source thereof. Such communications, when written, shall be returned by the chairman of the committee to the writer thereof immediately after the final action of the Commandery.

Any disclosure made of the author of such communication, or information given that may lead to such disclosure, shall be deemed "conduct unbecoming a gentleman and inconsistent with that of a man of honor," and subject the offender to impeachment and expulsion.

(5.) CIRCULAR ORDERS.

Circular orders giving date and place of the stated meetings of the Commandery shall be issued by the Recorder and posted at the New York City Post Office at least fifteen days in advance of every such meeting to each member of the Commandery. Such orders may contain whatever information other than heretofore

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prescribed that the Recorder or Board of Officers shall think useful or expedient. Posting by the Recorder, in the New York City Post Office, to the members of the Commandery, notice of any special meeting seven days before such meeting shall be deemed sufficient notice thereof under the Constitution. Circumstances shall govern the notice given for the convening of the Commandery on the death and funeral of a companion.

Every notice of a special meeting shall state by what authority and the business for which it is convened, and no other business than that named shall be transacted at such meeting.

(6.) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

There shall be an Advisory Committee of not less than five and not more than seven members annually appointed at the May stated meeting of the Commandery, to hold office for one year, and until their successors are appointed, to confer and advise with Committees of Investigation, whenever thereunto requested, upon questions of hereditary right arising out of or affecting applications for membership in the Order.

(7.) BALLOTING FOR MEMBERS.

The report of the Committee of Investigation having been read, upon its adoption by the Commandery the candidate shall be balloted for forthwith.

At a ballot for members the Commander shall appoint two tellers, who shall receive the ballots and report the result to the Commander, who shall announce the same.

(8.) MEMBERS.

Companions when residing, or on army or navy duty, within fifty miles of the City Hall in the city of New York, shall be classified as resident members, and those residing or on such duty without that limit, as non-resident members.

(9.) NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

A committee of nine shall be appointed by the Commander and announced at the stated meeting of the Commandery in February next preceding the annual stated meeting in May for the election of officers, to be composed of three members from each arm of the service represented in the Commandery—viz., three of the Regular Army, three of the Navy, and three of the United States Volunteers—whose duty it shall be, upon the call of the chairman thereof, to convene at the headquarters of the Commandery and prepare a ticket containing the names of candidates for the respective offices of the Commandery to be elected for the ensuing year. Should there be a dissenting minority, it may prepare a separate ticket in expression of its views. Such ticket or tickets thus prepared shall be reported to the Recorder, who shall print and

distribute the same, with the circular notice of the stated meeting next preceding the election. The report aforesaid of such ticket or tickets to the Recorder shall be taken and accepted as the report of said committee, and the committee shall be thereby discharged.

The polls for the election of officers shall be held in a room other than the one in which the business meeting of the Commandery is held. They shall be opened at 6:30 P. M. and remain open until 8:30 P. M. of the same evening, at which hour they shall be closed and no more ballots received. Three tellers shall be appointed by the Commander at the meeting in April to receive and count the ballots, who shall be furnished with alphabetical lists of all companions entitled to vote, and a check be made opposite the name of each companion as his ballot is deposited in the ballot-box.

Immediately upon the closing of the polls the tellers shall proceed to count the ballots cast and make a return of the result to the Commander.

(10.) ARREARS.

Immediately after the reading and adoption of the minutes at the stated meeting in the month of May, the Commander shall read Section 1 of Article XVIII. of the Constitution, so that, if desired, arrears may be paid or remitted before the ballot for officers of the Commandery is taken.

(11.) REMOVAL OF OFFICERS.

When charges are preferred against an officer for misfeasance they shall be made in writing and be served upon the officer so charged at least twenty days before the date fixed for the hearing thereof, and no removal of said officer shall be made by the Commandery until he shall have had reasonable opportunities for his defence before a committee of five members.

(12.) TELLERS.

Motions shall in all cases be reduced to writing if desired by the Commander or a companion.

On motions and resolutions the vote may be *viva voce* or by division. A division by tellers shall be taken at the demand of fifteen members.

(13.) LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The Commander shall annually, as soon after the stated meeting in October as practicable, appoint three companions as a committee to be known as the "Library Committee," who shall have charge of the library and relics. They shall prepare and maintain a proper catalogue of the same and shall recommend to the Board of Officers from time to time such books as in their judgment should be added thereto. The committee shall continue to act until the appointment of their successors.

(14.) FUNDS.

1st. The admission fee to the Commandery shall be \$35.

2nd. The annual dues shall be, for each resident member \$10, and for each non-resident member \$5, payable in advance, on or before the annual meeting of the Commandery in the month of May in each year. Resident companions elected between January and May shall pay only one-half of the annual dues for the current year.

The sums of money deposited to the credit of the Commandery in various savings banks, or elsewhere, shall be known as the Permanent Fund. The sums of money received for admission fees and annual dues, and from all other sources, shall constitute a fund to be known as the General Fund. All current expenses of the fiscal year shall be chargeable to and defrayed from the General Fund, and of the surplus, if any, of the General Fund remaining at the end of the fiscal year one-half thereof shall be transferred to the credit of the Permanent Fund, and the remaining one-half thereof shall be carried to the credit of the General Fund of the succeeding year.

The Treasurer may, for convenience during the fiscal year, draw from the General Fund sums chargeable upon the Permanent Fund, but all such sums shall be chargeable upon and be duly debited against the Permanent Fund, and be so reported by the Treasurer in each of his quarterly reports.

In case of drafts made by the Treasurer in the course of the fiscal year upon the General Fund of sums chargeable to the Permanent Fund, their total at the end of the fiscal year shall be supplied to the General Fund by drawing it from the Permanent Fund, and a full account thereof shall be given to the Commandery by the Treasurer in his annual report.

(15.) WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDS.

The Permanent Fund, whether in savings banks or elsewhere deposited, shall not be withdrawn, or any part thereof, except by resolution of the Commandery, stating the amount and for what purpose, duly certified by the presiding officer and Recorder. The check or draft to be signed by the Treasurer and the Commander or Senior Vice-Commander.

(16.) RELIEF.

All sums paid by the Treasurer, whether on the approval of the Board of Officers for "temporary assistance of the unfortunate," or by resolution of the Commandery for relief, shall be made chargeable to, and be drawn from, the Permanent Fund. It shall be the duty of the Relief Committee to report all cases of temporary assistance at the next stated meeting of the Commandery, with their reasons for the same.

Resolutions for relief when ordered by the Commandery shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption.

Applications for relief shall be made in writing to the Recorder, stating the grounds on which the relief is asked, and the same shall be presented by him to the Commandery at its next meeting, and be forthwith referred, without debate, to the Relief Committee.

(17.) SECURITY OF TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall give a bond, conditioned for "the faithful performance of his duty" in the penal sum of \$5,000, with two sufficient sureties, to be approved by the Board of Officers.

(18.) STANDING COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS.

The Council shall audit and adjust the Commandery's books of accounts every three months, and as often as done make a report of the same at the next stated meeting.

(19.) FINES.

A companion introducing or discussing sectarian or partisan topics at a meeting of the Commandery shall immediately be called to order by the Commander, who thereupon shall refer the offence to the Board of Officers. If the offence be committed within the precincts of the Commandery other than at the meeting, the Board of Officers shall take cognizance of it.

The precincts of the Commandery shall be the place of its meeting and the place of its refecton.

No fine, however, for this or other violation, or neglect of duty by a companion, shall be imposed without opportunity first given to him of being heard in his defence.

(20.) MILITARY PAPERS.

Papers on military reminiscences relating to the War, after approval of the Board of Officers, may be read at the stated meetings of the Commandery, and on resolution of the Commandery shall be preserved among its archives.

(21.) HEADQUARTERS.

A suitable place shall be maintained at the expense of the Commandery wherein shall be deposited its archives and library and whatever else of value or importance. It shall, at all reasonable times, be accessible to companions and visitors introduced by them as the headquarters of the Commandery. It shall be under the care and its contents in the custody of the Recorder, subject, however, to the control of the Board of Officers.

(22.) BY-LAWS.

These By-Laws shall not be repealed or amended, nor shall any new by-law be made, unless notice of the repeal, or amendment thereof, or of the new by-law proposed, shall have been given at the stated meeting previous to that at which it is moved, nor unless adopted by two-thirds of the members voting.

All Resolutions, Motions or Orders in conflict with these By-Laws are hereby repealed.

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